

## NEW BOOKS.

**Fair Margaret's Own Story.**  
By Mrs. S. R. Crockett. Story of "May Margaret," called "The Fair Maid of Galloway" (Dodd, Mead & Co.), purports to have been written by Margaret Hamilton, a Scotch girl, who, after a long and adventurous life, died in 1800. The story is a collection of old ballads and songs, and is a very good one. It is a story of a girl who was born in 1700, and who lived a life of adventure and romance. The story is a collection of old ballads and songs, and is a very good one. It is a story of a girl who was born in 1700, and who lived a life of adventure and romance.

Margaret in Mr. Crockett's first chapter opens upon her in a French convent, where she was only 15 years old. "Lord! Lord! how I hated it," she writes, "I, Margaret Douglas, who had been the pet of great men and strong men ever since I could remember." In that observation we have a considerable explanation of Margaret. She was lovely, and she knew it. What wrong for loveliness to be obliged to suffer the discipline of a nunnery? We will quote a single specification of the cruelties that she was monstrously called upon to endure.

"At a o'clock in the morning, black roaring winter or gracious June, you must turn in this our convent of the Birn-ay, though you be thrice a Princess in your own right. And they would not let you have so much as a drop of warm water in a pottery jar for the foot of your bed (mightily comforting it is to lone women) nor even suffer you to sleep in your woollen gown, which is to say gown that has a hood to it, and being turned head and heels, making an admirable nest for cold great toes. I have suffered from cold feet all my days. Indeed, if I had not, perhaps, I had been a happier woman."

Would Margaret really have made this confession? Is it not obviously Mr. Crockett making it for her? Is it not unmistakably a male person who takes it upon himself to rehearse that old fiction of the cold feet of lone ladies? It has seemed to us as though we had discovered here a rude stroke from a nunnery hand.

The story has it that Margaret called the lady superior of the convent a bald cat, and that she surreptitiously kissed Larry McKim, a holy abbot still in his youth, who had curly hair and came to the nunnery richly attired, riding a snow white mule. Our heroine married the Abbot Larry, strange as that may seem, and before she married him she married Lord William Douglas and Lord James Douglas, one after the other, though these two preliminary marriages were hastened to say she had a certain pride, at 18, in the prospect of matrimony, though she spoke of same without reverence in her old age when she was composing this chronicle. A certain boastfulness, permissible in a tried and triumphant female, is observable at this point, as well as at most others. We read at page 23:

"My chief joy and safety in this completing my education was to be married; and I was so anxious to be married, that I was willing to accept of a high pontifical dispensation, Papal bull, holy cord, and four pounds of wax thereto attached—not to speak, as it were, of bell, book and candle. So they might sigh, the men of them, that is—but no one could think (no, not for a moment) that I meant any harm. Indeed, I never did, and said so frequently when the harm came."

Four pages further on the aged heroine writes, after recording something that she said to the Abbot "Larry," that she was so anxious to be married, that she was willing to accept of a high pontifical dispensation, Papal bull, holy cord, and four pounds of wax thereto attached—not to speak, as it were, of bell, book and candle. So they might sigh, the men of them, that is—but no one could think (no, not for a moment) that I meant any harm. Indeed, I never did, and said so frequently when the harm came."

It is impossible, much as we have the inclination, to tell all about Margaret. We will speak further only of the great cannon fired off by Malise McKim. The reader will find an account of this in the chapter entitled "Malise Does His Work." The title is quite accurate regarding Malise. That mad blacksmith wrought great havoc with his cannon. The King and the others, a "detested" monster. There were "black edges" that had been immersed in oil, Margaret beheld them and divined. For once she was not fippant and playful. "Stop!" she cried, "I beseech you all to go away. There is danger here—perhaps death!" The King was merely angered at this interruption and warning. He called Margaret a "girl." He brusquely ordered her away.

Off went the cannon, as we have said. Margaret saved herself and the one time Abbot Larry. She records: "By this time I had my hand on the collar of Laurence's blouse, of the strong, rough stuff which he wore at his engineering. Suddenly, leaning all my weight upon it, I brought us both to the ground at the very moment when I saw Malise set his blazing match to the touchhole! The roar of the bombard was followed by a cry more great and terrible still. For a moment it seemed as if all who a moment before had stood about were lying in their blood. The great cannon had burst at the first shot. The wedges had slipped like glass. Morton had fallen on his face with his arms outspread. Angus, pale as parchment, lay wounded to the death. The King, when they went to lift him up, was dead. And as to Malise the smith, after that great explosion, in plain words—he was not!"

It is not he, but the story of him, that matters. Of him and the others, Margaret wrote readily, with much playfulness and sense of what was amusing. We believe we have said before that readers will think her more like Mr. Crockett than like an old woman. The more luck hers. An animated tale, with many words, likewise with a number of happenings.

**A Lady of Ancient Spain.**  
Poetry comes to us in great quantity these days, as it has done in other days or some time back. Much of it is vague, and has caused the reader to wonder whether the object of the poet was to write or to write. We cannot say that our laborious investigations have been richly rewarded. There are certain names to whose example we are inclined to believe that we are indebted for this ink that has been put upon us. We bear them no malice. We understand that we are here to suffer, and we do it with all the fairly great ability for martyrdom that is within us.

Occasionally there comes to us a poem of obvious intent and plain expression. "Hamlet," "Beggars that I am, I am even poor in thanks, but I thank you," is a voice eloquently our own emotion when we come upon a poem that is good enough not to distress us by its solemn credence and profound consciousness. We are to be made to feel as though we were

not know anything at all, and yet the poets swarm who seem to be aiming at that particular and most ungenerous result. We are thankful, accordingly, to Mr. Osborn R. Lamb for his "Anglo-Greek play" entitled "The White Squaw" (Dodd, Mead & Co., 200 Broadway, New York). We have here a prelude in which the orchestra plays and the outer curtain is raised. The chorus and semi-chorus kneel and offer a recitation beginning:

O, mighty, glorious and immortal Jove, Who rulest all things wisely from above, The source of all that is, or is to be, Thy faithful, loving servants ever are we.

A choral hymn follows, from which we can permit ourselves to quote only the first two lines. These run:

To thee we sing, O mighty Jove, Whose grace we ask and bounteous love. Sweet music precedes the rising of the inner curtain upon an Athenian home about the year 435 B. C. Aliza, the Iberian, seated in the center of the stage, tells her story to Hector and Helen, who kneel and all respectfully right and left. She describes the beauties of Spain and acquaints her hearers with the story of Atlantis and the Isles and continent beyond. In the course of the narrative, which has its tragic elements, Helen exclaims, "How terrible!" and Hector, "How horrible!" Helen says:

"The very, very sad, this wondrous tale, Even now the tears do fill mine eyes. Hector assents to this opinion. He declares:

Indeed, no tragedy with it can ever compare. In the second scene after a choral hymn to the evening star, Aliza utters a sentiment in eleven lines, of which we must content ourselves with quoting the eleventh part. Says Aliza:

At the last Aliza goes out in a thunderstorm, and Eros brings back dreadful information concerning her. He says at first, hesitating at the full revelation: "None can withstand the thunderbolts of Jove." Lucian, the lover, urges Eros on. "What now, fool?" he says. To this Eros answers: "She lies upon a threshold, dead." Lucian says: "Dead?" Eros repeats: "Dead." Lucian falls into a chair at table, hides his head in his arms and sobs aloud; then a second and more distant crash of thunder is heard, followed by vivid lightning, and the curtain falls, whereafter men's voices are heard singing a dirge.

As we say, there are no obscurities about this poem. It is quite open and above board. For this reason, and for others as well, it has gratified us exceedingly.

**Ivory Carvings.**  
To the beautiful volume of the "Connoisseur's Library" (Methuen & Co.; G. P. Putnam's Sons) Mr. Alfred Maskell has added one on "Ivories." It is of varied merit and interest. The part for which the author cares seems to be very well done; this is the development of miniature sculpture from Roman times through the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. On reaching modern times praise is offered, and the object is provided, usually seems exaggerated.

Even in the parts which he treats most elaborately Mr. Maskell seems to follow favorite lines in certain countries rather than to cover the whole field. This may be due to deficiencies in the collections he has studied. For Oriental, Chinese and Japanese carvings he has little to say.

Few objects could bear reproduction in illustrations better than these ivories and the pictures, which are many, are usually charming. They do not seem to be selected always with the best of judgment, however, whether as objects of art or as illustrations of development. The book, we fancy, will gratify collectors along certain lines and will disappoint some others.

**Love-Mad for the White Squaw.**  
The reader will feel shivers of apprehension when he comes to this poem in Ridgwell Cullom's story entitled "In the Brooding Wild" (L. C. Page & Co., Boston), where the brothers Ralph and Nick Weston, having a bag of gold to their account, and having a lack of gold to their account, hear of the whereabouts of the White Squaw, and decide to go in search of her. A desperate undertaking, if there is any trust to be placed in the foreshadowings of a tale. They found the White Squaw. She was as good looking as the accounts of her had declared. She stood in the door of a dugout, "a calm, serene, leaning on the muzzle of a long rifle. 'I'm crowned the head, which was nobly poised.' The face was marble white, set in a frame of copious black hair."

It might be supposed that a white squaw in the depths of a profound wilderness would be moved by the appearance of two white men full of an obvious admiration of her. She might have been a red squaw for all the concern she showed. "There was a glimmer of the delicate eyelids, not a tremor of the perfect mouth" to reward them for their trouble in coming in search of her. She conversed with them in the sign language, the while they regarded her superb figure and her eyes of wondrous blue. She was communicative and hospitable. She was not emotional. We read:

"She told that she was Aliza, which is the Moosetoot for blue sky; and that she was the White Squaw, the queen of her people. She indicated that she was out on a long trail hunting, and that she had found herself in this valley with a snow-storm coming on. She had seen the dugout and had sought its shelter, intending to remain there until the storm had passed. She made it clear to them that a bull moose and four cows had entered the valley. She asked the brothers if, when the storm had passed, they would join her in the hunt."

Were Venus to invite an unattached and susceptible bachelor to tea, would he accept? As it happened, this dugout belonged to two brothers. It was theirs to afford the hospitality. It was all quite beautiful. "Two great rough men, with hearts as simple and trusting as those of infants, led this stranger into their home and made it clear that the place was hers for so long as she chose." The Spaniard says that his house is yours, and does not exactly mean it, but our Ralph and our Nick meant every word that they said about their house in the sign language to the White Squaw. It was so tremendously to their credit. It was our opinion that any enlightened male soul would have presented his dugout to the White Squaw in exchange for her handsome company.

The snow fell that night, and it fell for five days thereafter. If the White Squaw at that time had turned into a dragon, our two brothers could not have got away from her. Of course, she continued in her beauty, and to be showed up with her was a privilege amounting to a delicious joy. The story does not say so, but we are satisfied that the brothers cooled and washed the dishes. One does not extend hospitality to a queen and ask her to do these things. Alas! the housekeeping of these three went on for months, and the brothers grew jealous of each other. Nick blurted out his love to Aliza; his brother was angry. He said to Aliza: "Then blue eyes

of yours go right clear through me, I guess. Makes me mad. By God! you're the finest critter in the world!" We must say that this address, sincere as it was, and doubtless powerfully delivered, still seemed to us "inadequate." It did not surprise us that the White Squaw was not won by it, though we knew very well that she could not have been squeamish about the English language.

The story goes on to develop the tragedy waiting to arise from this situation. There is a chapter called "The Unquenchable Fire." There is another entitled "To the Death." We find at the last a maddened man going out in search of Aliza. One wild beast shrinks from him, frightened by the insanity in his eye. A grizzly bear opens to him his hospitable jaws. In his disordered mind the bear is the White Squaw. He dies joyously in a sufficient embrace. Wolves strip his bones. The reader will not complain of the want of strong tragedy in the tale.

**Mr. Benson's FitzGerald.**  
The remarkable qualities shown by Mr. A. C. Benson in his biography of Rossetti appear again in the "Edward Fitzgerald" of the "English Men of Letters" series (Macmillan). He is sane and impartial above all things, shirking no difficulties, yet avoiding indiscretion, stating the facts objectively and leaving the reader to draw his own inferences, and criticizing with obvious fairness. His "FitzGerald," however, will not please the Omar Khayyamites; in some respects it will satisfy nobody.

The reason is that he has little sympathy with his subject, and no very high regard for his work. He looks on him as a poet who frittered away his life and his talent, who is interesting for the friends he had and the letters he wrote and whose poetical work is respectable, but overestimated. That is, perhaps, the inevitable reaction from fulsome laudation and possibly not a wholly unjust estimate in a biography where the writer must take his place by the side of other English writers.

FitzGerald, none the less, was no George Borrow. His failings and whinicalities could have been put in a different light by a biographer who had some fellow feeling for him, and would not merely chronicle his acts with somewhat contemptuous disdain. There is a poet in him, even if the mob applaud him, and Mr. Benson does scant justice to his Spanish translations. The extracts that he quotes from the letters, too, hardly do FitzGerald justice. They would not attract notice if written by any one else and often are only worth quoting because they speak of famous men.

Mr. Benson cannot quite understand a man who chose to live his own life regardless of conventions and chose to write only what he pleased. His judgment of FitzGerald is perhaps fair from society's point of view, but there is a Fitzgerald side to the matter, too. It is an interesting book, all the same, and perhaps made necessary by the Omar Khayyam worship, which would have made FitzGerald sick.

**Sir Charles Dilke's Story of His Wife.**  
The chief interest in "The Book of the Spiritual Life" by the late Lady Dilke (E. P. Dutton & Co.) will be found in the memoir of the author by her husband, the Right Hon. Sir Charles W. Dilke, Bart. Though she wrote some creditable books on French art, about which she knew a good deal, it was not as a writer that Lady Dilke was chiefly known, but as a power in English society, as Mrs. Mark Pattison no less than as the wife of her second husband.

Sir Charles writes of her in the most recent (and as it only the due of the woman who stood up for him in the moment of his most shameful disgrace. He tries to be as impersonal as possible by simply enumerating her successive efforts and accomplishments. The result is peculiar. We form the impression of a pushing, energetic, masterful woman of a type very common in America, which often breaks out on the woman's rights platform. She cannot have been precisely pleasant in her strenuous art student days, but she gave up art at twenty-one to marry Mark Pattison.

As his wife she made Lincoln College a social center at Oxford and at the same time managed to do an astonishing amount of writing. After she married Dilke she went into the woman's rights movement and trade unionism. She was intensely ambitious for social and political position.

The essays selected for publication by her husband are well written, as might be expected from one who had contributed to periodicals for many years. They are remarkable neither for originality nor for thought. Possibly more revelation of the woman might have explained them; the memoir, as it is written, certainly does not lead up to them. It is still on her writings on French art that Lady Dilke's literary reputation must rest.

**Japan.**  
Once more the Japanese Department of Finance, through the kindness of Mr. Y. Sakurai, the Vice-Minister, sends us its valuable "Financial and Economical Annual," the fifth for the year 1905 (Government Printing Office, Tokyo), printed in the English language. The mass of carefully and conveniently arranged statistical information will be particularly interesting to foreigners because the figures for the war year 1904 are included, so that inferences may be drawn as to the commercial effects of the war on Japan. At the end will be found the import tariff, with the additional war charges.

Philosophers have been trying to analyze the secret of the pluck, endurance and self-sacrifice of the Japanese in the present war, and derive comfort from ascribing it to "bushido." While the remarkable organization of the Japanese resources in the present war arouses the astonishment and admiration that Prussia's readiness did thirty-five years ago, it is difficult to see why the Japanese should be so much more successful than the Chinese and foreigners. If there is one thing on which recent authors on China are agreed it is the honesty and regard for contracts of the Chinese, usually put in rather invidious contrast to the slipperiness of the Japanese. Mr. Bard describes many things in China as others have done before him, and rarely has a good word for anything he finds.

Much information about the Russian Jews in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago has been collected by various hands and is published under the editorship of Dr. Charles S. Barnheims, with the title "The Russian Jew in the United States" (The John C. Winston Company). Of the thirty odd contributors all but two, to judge by the names, are Jews. The two who are not are Henry Seidemann and Henry Pott. The book is a collection of many sociological points of view, with the optimism that belongs to that science and which extends to hope for the success of Jewish agricultural settlements.

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**Civil War Recollections.**  
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There is a surfeit of books about China written from the Western standpoint. What is needed now is description of facts as they are, what the Chinese would call an "objective" view. The Chinese question is one that most civilized nations must deal with right away, and several honest attempts which have been made of late to explain the actual state of things will help in the settlement. The volume on "Chinese Life in Town and Country" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), which Mr. H. N. Twichell has translated from the French of Emile Bard, is not among these. It belongs to a class of narratives that has been put out of date by recent events in the East. The author looks on the people he undertakes to describe with a jaundiced eye, as the following wholesale indictment of a nation will show: "From the national disregard for sincerity and exactness emanate the exasperating practices of fraud, dissimulation, trickery and squeezing, which are the cause of so much of the antipathy existing between the Chinese and foreigners." If there is one thing on which recent authors on China are agreed it is the honesty and regard for contracts of the Chinese, usually put in rather invidious contrast to the slipperiness of the Japanese. Mr. Bard describes many things in China as others have done before him, and rarely has a good word for anything he finds.

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In "A Little Garden Calendar" (Henry Alden Company, Philadelphia), Mr. Albert Bigelow Paine endeavors to import horticultural and agricultural information into the nursery. His method is the old fashioned one of stringing on a slender thread of story pretty solid chunks of instruction. Perhaps ingenious youth may still be enticed to knowledge by this means.

**Civil War Recollections.**  
Among the valuable records of the civil war the accounts of the deeds of single regiments are perhaps as interesting as any. They give individually to the story and limit the egotism which a personal narrative might have. The Twenty-first Wisconsin Infantry had the opportunity to play a gallant part in the decisive campaign. It fought at Chickamauga and Chattanooga and marched with Sherman to the sea and then followed Johnston north. Its story is told in "Echoes of the Civil War," by Col. Michael H. Fitch (R. F. Fenn & Co.). The story suffers somewhat in authority by judgments about men and events which are necessarily made after the event. The author's estimate of Gen. Thomas will be accepted by many who may not acquiesce in sharp criticisms of some other commanders. The regiment fought bravely in important battles and suffered severely. Its story is inspiring as a record of duty well done.

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Various papers contributed to periodicals at different times by Gen. Henry Edwin Tremaine have been collected in a volume entitled "Two Days of War, a Gettysburg Narrative and Other Excursions" (Ronnel Silver & Sons, New York). The first part of the book consists of several papers relating to the battle of Gettysburg; this is followed by articles and reports describing the condition of the South in the reconstruction period, by an oration on Gen. Hooker, by a discussion of the battle of Chancellorsville and by some miscellaneous papers. Most of the articles are familiar to military historians, who will be glad to find them collected in this convenient shape.

**The Scribner Stevenson.**  
Four more volumes of the pretty and handy "Biographical" edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's works published by Charles Scribner's Sons have come to us, making ten that have appeared under twenty-four. These comprise "Inland Voyages," "Familiar Studies" and "The Wrecker," written in conjunction with Mr. Osbourne. A desire to keep the external appearance of the volumes uniform has led to what seems to us a mistake in taste. The chief attraction of this edition, next to the convenient pocket size, is the handsome paper found in all the longer stories. This is ruined by the double leading needed to increase the bulk of the "Inland Voyage," and the "Island Night."

Stevenson's introductions to the South Pacific books have some information in them and perhaps were worth printing. That to the "Inland Voyage" is vivid and out of taste. To the "Familiar Studies," fortunately, there is no preface save Stevenson's own. This edition is the most satisfactory for general use that we have seen.

**Other Books.**  
A model of what a biography should not be is offered in the "Schubert," by Mr. Edmonstone Duncan, in the "Master Musicians" series (J. M. Dent & Co., E. P. Dutton & Co.). The book is condensed from larger and more authoritative biographies, but in the condensation the author has lost sight of the essentials in his care for trivial details. The criticism of the musical compositions is expressed in the set phrases that will hardly be to blame the composer, who will hardly be to blame the critic of Schubert's compositions. The stress the author puts on that one piece seems due to its having been published separately, while many of Schubert's more beautiful songs are not mentioned because they are grouped together in the publisher's catalogues with which the author seems to be chiefly familiar. It seems rather preposterous, too, to attach so much importance to what the author calls the introduction of Schubert to England. If a bibliography had to be given it should have been complete to be of any use. Book learning cannot compensate for lack of intelligence of the musician and his real music in the case of a man like Franz Schubert.

There is a surfeit of books about China written from the Western standpoint. What is needed now is description of facts as they are, what the Chinese would call an "objective" view. The Chinese question is one that most civilized nations must deal with right away, and several honest attempts which have been made of late to explain the actual state of things will help in the settlement. The volume on "Chinese Life in Town and Country" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), which Mr. H. N. Twichell has translated from the French of Emile Bard, is not among these. It belongs to a class of narratives that has been put out of date by recent events in the East. The author looks on the people he undertakes to describe with a jaundiced eye, as the following wholesale indictment of a nation will show: "From the national disregard for sincerity and exactness emanate the exasperating practices of fraud, dissimulation, trickery and squeezing, which are the cause of so much of the antipathy existing between the Chinese and foreigners." If there is one thing on which recent authors on China are agreed it is the honesty and regard for contracts of the Chinese, usually put in rather invidious contrast to the slipperiness of the Japanese. Mr. Bard describes many things in China as others have done before him, and rarely has a good word for anything he finds.

Much information about the Russian Jews in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago has been collected by various hands and is published under the editorship of Dr. Charles S. Barnheims, with the title "The Russian Jew in the United States" (The John C. Winston Company). Of the thirty odd contributors all but two, to judge by the names, are Jews. The two who are not are Henry Seidemann and Henry Pott. The book is a collection of many sociological points of view, with the optimism that belongs to that science and which extends to hope for the success of Jewish agricultural settlements.